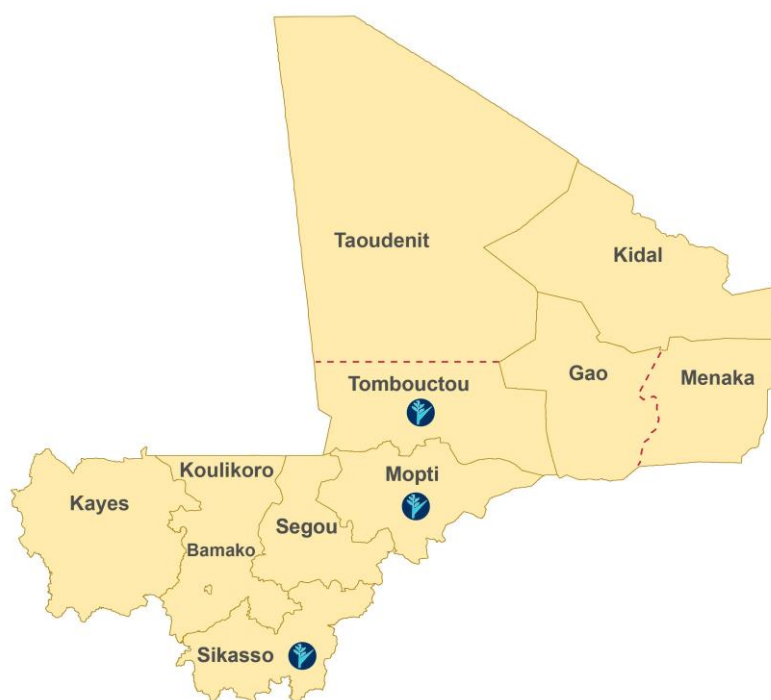




Photo Credit: Mactar Menta

USAID MALI

AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Agriculture and Economic Growth (AEG) Office at USAID/Mali manages an annual \$25-\$30 million portfolio to advance the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative (FTF), the Government of Mali's National Agricultural Investment Plan, and the U.S. Global Water Strategy.

FEED THE FUTURE IN MALI: The Mali FTF strategy is an overarching framework for integrated food security, nutrition, and resilience programming. Our objectives are to improve the livelihoods and resilience of Malian producers by focusing on the sustainable reduction of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition through three principal objectives: (1) inclusive agricultural-led growth; (2) strengthened resilience among people and communities; and (3) improved nutritional status, especially among women and children.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: The FTF Mali plan identifies key zones of influence (ZOI) including these regions: Sikasso, Bougouni, Koutiala, Mopti, Tombouctou, Douentza, and Bandiagara. These regions are further divided into two sub-zones: the central/northern Delta Zone and the Southern Zone. The Delta Zone is generally characterized as the conflict-prone region with very limited access, but a recent uptick of violence has raised the

security profile in the Southern Zone as well. The FTF ZOI includes many areas in the Government of Mali's priority list for vulnerable communes in need of humanitarian support, and it complements many other USAID/Mali activities in these same regions. The Southern Zone statistically experiences higher rates of stunting, and our activities respond with a focus on improving nutrition and dietary diversity. In the Delta Zone, FTF emphasizes opportunities for increased household and community resilience in response to persistent conflict.

CLIMATE RISKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Because of differences in climate, cropping and animal husbandry practices, security, and vulnerability to shocks found in the two sub-zones, each has different competitive value chains. The Delta Zone is dominated by a semi-arid Sahelian climate, while the Southern Zone receives more precipitation and is situated in the sub-tropical savanna. Maize is largely grown in the south, whereas the Delta regions have a higher concentration of pastoralists. Increasingly variable rainfall patterns are occurring in Mali, making climate resilience programming extremely important. Insecurity, climate risk, and conflict over the use of natural resources are some of the challenges impacting cultivator-pastoralist and livestock populations. The Delta Zone further includes internationally recognized wetlands, making natural resource management an integral part of USAID/Mali's programming.

NUTRITION: Nutrition, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities operate in both sub-zones, building on successful FTF programming to date, while broadening the scope to target nearly all households in the FTF ZOI for maternal prenatal nutrition and the child's nutrition in the first 2 years of life (1,000 days) with high-nutrient vegetable production and/or consumption.

RESILIENCE: USAID/Mali works to build the resilience of vulnerable people to recurrent shocks and stresses exacerbated by climate, conflict, and high levels of poverty in the Delta Zone as well the Gao region. FTF activities work closely with humanitarian projects (particularly the regional food security activity) in this enlarged resilience ZOI. USAID/Mali programming in the region also includes health, education and governance assistance to increase the socio-economic wellbeing of Malian beneficiaries.

STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED CONNECTION TO MARKET

SYSTEMS: USAID/Mali helps producer organizations and farmers increase their capacity to better grow, harvest, handle, and process agricultural products. AEG activities promote new technologies that increase productivity; reduce post-harvest losses; and improve the storage, processing, and safety of agricultural products to attract higher market prices at different times of the year. Our activities promote innovative techniques to improve the quality of food stocks for sale in the market, effectively increasing profit-making ventures at household, community, and firm levels. The FTF portfolio also works to empower women and youth by investing in products and services targeted for female producers to help them increase production levels through the adoption of time-saving technologies, including in agroforestry.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE: USAID/Mali improves the quality and sustainability of rural water and sanitation services by building the governance and maintenance capacity of key stakeholders in rural Malian communities to construct, maintain, and sustainably manage safe and reliable water systems, as well as to plan and implement local sanitation strategic plans. AEG implements these activities in the Sikasso, Bougouni and Koutiala southern regions of the country. These activities increase the availability and sustainable management of safe water and sanitation systems - as well as productive water use systems for agriculture - for rural, underserved communities.